



Office of  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Crook County  
BOX 37  
SUNDANCE, WYOMING 82729

September 5, 2001

DETO Planning  
Devils Tower National Monument  
P.O. Box 10  
Devils Tower, WY 82729

Received  
Devils Tower NM  
SEP 6 2001

Superintendent		
Admin. Officer		
Admin. Asst.		
Chief Ranger		
Vis. Use Asst.		
Res. Man. Spec.		
Biotech		
Chief of Interp.		
Park Ranger		
Fac. Manager		
Maint. Worker		
Maint. Worker		
<input type="checkbox"/> File	<input type="checkbox"/> Return to.	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss

Due Date. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Chas:

After reviewing the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Devils Tower, we wish to make the following comments regarding the preferred alternative and the changes proposed.

The shuttle system proposed in Alternative 3, the preferred alternative, seems to be a reasonable approach to reducing congestion problems in the monument during peak times. However, after the shuttle system has been in operation for several seasons, if the visitation to Devils Tower drops precipitously and there appears to be a direct link between the transit system and reduced visitation, the National Park Service will need to be willing to re-visit its plan and act accordingly.

The two larger vehicle pullouts that will replace the existing pullouts along the main road at the prairie dog town will be a good improvement. We suggest that you add one other feature to make those areas even more "visitor-friendly": benches, *shaded* benches if possible. The addition of a number of benches to those more spacious pullouts would be a real enhancement visitors are sure to appreciate. And the cost of that added feature should be minimal.

In the "Public Involvement" section of the GMP, the relocation of the picnic area is identified as a topic of concern to some members of the public. We recognize that many local residents have used the existing picnic area for large family and church gatherings for decades and would like to continue their established traditions and customs. The new picnic area needs to reflect a respect for those cultural and historic uses of the present picnic area. The new area should be very similar in the quality of experience it provides and have *at least* the capacity of the existing facility.

Under the paragraph "Vegetation" in the section entitled "Affected Environment" and subsection "Natural Resources", it states that the National Park Service has developed strategies to control some of the noxious plant species found within the monument. We support continued aggressive management of noxious weeds within the Park's borders.

Thank you for your written acknowledgment of Crook County's land use plan and its significance in this planning process, and for addressing impacts of concern to the County in the "Environmental Consequences" chapter of the General Management Plan.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft GMP document.

Sincerely,

Mark Semlek, Chair  
Board of Crook County Commissioners

Anita Fish, Chair  
Crook County Land Use Planning  
& Zoning Commission